2: Lessons 2-5 (1926-27) 1933 FTS Tamala FTS

to be carried on the mother's back they must sit, sleep and eat in 858
the western half of the house. The eastern half is reserved for parents 861
and adult visitors. They cannot sit on the same level with a parent,
as on the same bench, but must sit lower. Among the Menabe pastors 513
of plateau origin, who use elaborate wooden bedsteads, children must
not sleep on the parents' bed while the latter are still alive, or in
beds of any sort before they are married. When a son marries, or
when he becomes rich and wishes to set up an establishment of his
own, he may not use a bed until he has made a new one and presented
it to his father with 0.20 francs in money. If a child, even when
grown, kills a chicken, he must give the rear half to his father and
if his parents live at a distance it is salted and sent to them. I knew
of one instance in which a son's failure to do this was the straw that
broke the camel's back. His father, already tried to the limit of
endurance, formally disowned him. The first piece of cloth that a
girl weaves without help must also be given to her parents, but they
compliment her and may hold a small feast in her honor.

These regulations are all ancient and it is believed that their 867
infraction is highly offensive to the ancestors. The child will be 793
punished by illness or bad luck even if the parents choose to ignore
the offense. The evil effects can only be averted by undergoing a
ceremony called tsiriva. The child comes to the parent with a gift
of a piece of silver money and begs pardon. If this is granted, the
parent takes the silver and puts it in a dish of water. He then
counts: "*Iza* [one], *Roa* [two], *Telo* [three]," and says: "Grant
that we may have good health and a good life, Andrianamitra,
Andrianamonony. I pray to you because our child has committed a
fault before you. He has asked pardon, bringing silver. I pardon
him now, so that the evil may be averted and nothing come of it,
neither sickness nor misfortune. I pardon him so that everything
may prosper, so that there may be a good rice harvest, and so that
the children may be attended by good fortune." He then takes some
of the water in which the silver has been stamped and asperges the
child with it six times, counting. At the sixth sprinkling he says:
"I bless you that you may have good health and good life."

CHILDHOOD

There is no formal separation of the sexes at any stage in their 857
development. Up to the age of five or six the boys and girls play
together, but as they grow older they are drawn apart by their
divergent interests. Half-grown boys and girls are rarely seen